

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 FBO-01 L-03 M-03 A-01

OMB-01 ABF-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

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O 171543Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 447

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8499

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ETRD, ABLD, UR

SUBJECT: NEW COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

REF: (A) STATE 138367 (B) MOSCOW 8234

1. UPON RECEIPT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S TELEGRAM ON JULY 16, THE EMBASSY SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO DIRECTOR OF UPDK IVANOV ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW COMMERCIAL BUILDING : BEGIN QUOTE: ON JULY 11 OF THIS YEAR YOU INFORMED ME THAT THE ADMINISTRATION WOULD BE UNABLE TO HONOR THE LEASE FOR THE PROPERTY ON SMOLENSKAYA SQUARE WHICH WAS SIGNED BY YOU AND BY THE AMERICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, MR. DUBS, ON JUNE 22, 1973. I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL CONTINUE TO REGARD THIS LEASE AS VALID UNTIL IT HAS MADE A DETERMINATION ON WHEEKSATISFACTORILY. IN ORDER TO ENABLE MY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE THIS DETERMINATION, MAY I ASK THAT YOU MAKE AVAILABL TO THE EMBASSY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THE FLOOR PLANS TO BOTH THE SMOLENSKAYA SQUARE PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY AT CHAIKOVSKIJ 15. THANKY YOUR SINCERELY, MELENCAMP. END QUOTE. THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE HAD ALSO BEEN PASSED ORALLY TO UPDK BY THE EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICER EARLIER IN THE DAY.

2. THIS AFTERNOON THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM IVANOV WAS RECEIVED: BEGIN QUOTE: IN ANSWER TO YOUR LETTER

OF JULY 16, 1973, AND IN CONFIRMATION OF OUR CONVERSATION OF JULY 11 OF THIS YEAR, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THE THE MOSCOW CITY AUTHORITIES, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE WISHES EXPRESSED EARLIER BY THE EMBASSY, ARE OFFERING AS SPACE FOR THE COMMERCIAL OFFICE OF THE EMBASSY OF THE USA THE FIRST FLOOR OF A BUILDING AT CHAIKOVSKIJ STREET 15, ADJACENT TO THE EMBASSY CHANCERY. THE SPACE OFFERED COMPRISES 493 SQUARE METERS. AT THE SAME TIME I WISH TO CONFIRM THAT, BECAUSE OF THE TECHNICAL REASONS EXPLAINED DURING TMS ABOVE-MENTIONED CONVERSATION, THE ALLOCATION OF THE SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE BUILDING ON SMOLENSKAYA STREET 6 IS NOT POSSIBLE. ENCLOSING IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR REQUEST A FLOOR PLAN OF THE SPACE ON THE FIRST FLOOR AT CHAIKOVSKIJ STREET 15, I ASK THAT YOU LET US KNOW AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE YOUR WISHES CONCERNING RECONFIGURATION OF THE SPACE FOR USE AS A COMMERCIAL OFFICE IN ORDER THAT WE MAY PASS THEM ON TO THE CONSTRUCTION ORGANIZATION. SINCERELY, IVANOV. END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT: THE UNCOMPROMISING TENOR OF IVANOV'S REPLY LEAVES SCANT ROOM FOR MOVEMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE ON THE QUESTION OF THE SMOLENSKAYA PROPERTY. WHATEVER REASONS UPDK MAY HAVE FOR REFUSING TO LET US HAVE THAT BUILDING ARE EVIDENTLY SUFFICIENTLY OVERRIDING FOR THEM TO BE WILLING TO RISK A DIPLOMATIC FLAP OVER THE ISSUE. IT MAY NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO PROVOKE SUCH A FLAP IF OUR NEEDS FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE ARE ADEQUATELY SATISFIED BY THE ALTERNATE PROPERTY BEING OFFERED TO US, AS THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IS THE CASSE. END COMMENT

4. FLOOR PLANS FOR THE CHAIKOVSKIJ 15 PROPERTY ARE BEING POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH PICTURES OF THE BUILDING AND SITE. A ROUGH FLOOR PLAN OF THE SMOLENSKAYA PROPERTY SKETCHED BY FBO ENGINEER
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CARL HANSEN DURING HIS VISIT HERE IN EARLY JULY IS BEING POUCHED AS WELL. HANSEN WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON SMOLENSKAYA IF NECESSARY.
MELENCAMP

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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